

Table of Native Wisconsin Trees Explained

The Table of Native Wisconsin Trees is intended to be a guide for selecting native trees to add to a landscape. It is just one way to look at trees and their niche in a native plant community. The table organizes trees by species, hydric preferences, taxonomy (by *family*, *order*, *genus* and *species*) and provides an organization along with some useful references for prevalence and types of communities. The table does not document many aspects that also should be a consideration in tree selection including: size, affiliated species, phenology, soil preferences, and others.

Each of the more common species of native tree in Wisconsin is found in a cell.

The cells are grouped into three main clades: Rosids (pink), Asterids (yellow) and Pinopsids (green). A clade, also known as a monophyletic group or natural group, is a group of organisms that have a common ancestor. The clades are used to divide the trees into broad categories.

The cells are further organized by *order* and *family* roughly in columns within the clades and range from wetland species at the top (blueish tint) to upland species at the bottom (tan tint).

Within each cell, the *Order* and *Family* are on the top row. The *Genus* and *Species* are found on the second line. The common name is found on the third line. The fourth line contains some coded information: Wetland Indicators, floristic quality C-value, the modal plant community (where it is in greatest abundance for that particular species) and the number of plant communities in which the species is found.

Row four codes:

Wet. Ind. (lower left) is the wetland definition code used in the U.S. :

OBL (Obligate Wetland Plants)—Almost always occur in wetlands.

FACW (Facultative Wetland Plants)—Usually occur in wetlands, but may occur in non-wetlands.

FAC (Facultative Wetland Plants)—Occur in wetlands and nonwetlands.

FACU (Facultative Upland Plants)—Usually occur in non-wetlands, but may occur in wetlands.

UPL (Upland Plants)—Almost never occur in wetlands

C value (lower center)

Each plant species in a region is assigned a coefficient of conservatism, also known as a C-value, ranging between 0 and 10. A plant species with a higher score (e.g. 10) has a lower tolerance to environmental degradation and therefore is naturally restricted to undisturbed, remnant habitats. C-values also indicate a fidelity to specific habitats in the region. C-values are assigned within specific ecological and geographic regions by botanical experts familiar with the species' autecology within the respective regions.

In the Table of Native Trees, the C-value is based on Wisconsin specific C-value determination found at <https://wisflora.herbarium.wisc.edu/>. Trees that are generalists

and can adapt to many conditions have lower C-values. For example, the beloved Box Elder has a C-value of 0 since it can grow in many conditions. The highly site-specific Blue Ash has a C-value of 10 being found in specific wetlands of South East Wisconsin.

Modal /# (lower right) –

indicates the Wisconsin Plant Community (as defined by John Curtis) where the species is modal, or its community of greatest abundance for that particular species (see list below) and, the number of plant communities in which the species is found.

Plant Communities from *Vegetation of Wisconsin, an Ordination of the Species*, by John Curtis.

AQE	Emergent Aquatic
AQS	Submerged Aquatic
AT	Alder Thicket
BEA	Lake Beach
BF	Boreal Forest
BG	Bracken-Grassland
BOG	Open Bog
CG	Cedar Glade
CLE	Exposed Cliff
CLS	Shaded Cliff
DUN	Lake Dune
FN	Fen
ND	Northern Dry Forest
NDM	Northern Dry-Mesic Forest
NM	Northern Mesic Forest
NS	Northern Sedge Meadow
NW	Northern Wet Forest
NWM	Northern Wet-Mesic Forest
OB	Oak Barrens
OO	Oak Opening
PB	Pine Barrens
PD	Dry Prairie
PDM	Dry-Mesic Prairie
PM	Mesic Prairie
PW	Wet Prairie
PWM	Wet-Mesic Prairie
SB	Sand Barrens
SC	Shrub Carr
SD	Southern Dry Forest
SDM	Southern Dry-Mesic Forest
SM	Southern Mesic Forest
SS	Southern Sedge Meadow
SW	Southern Wet Forest
SWM	Southern Wet-Mesic Forest